

Farmers' Department.

Golden Rules for Amateur Gardeners.

When watering, particularly newly planted crops, in dry weather, give a good soaking of water at the roots, and in all mild weather sprinkle over the whole plant at the same time, to prevent excessive evaporation.

Liquid Manure for growing vegetable crops may be given twice each week, and for developing flowers as soon as the calyx or flower cup begins to burst, it should be applied but once a week. A cloudy atmosphere is the best condition for giving water, and early in the evening is the best period in summer months.

The liquid which soaks from common farm and poultry yards, with some soot added, is the cheapest, but when such is not procurable, add 1 pound of guano to 30 gallons of water and about a spadeful of soot, the latter tied up in a coarse cloth or bag to prevent it from swimming on the water. This mixture will make a liquid manure fit for all the ornamental cross-fertilizing plants, as Pelargoniums, Salvia, Fuchsias, Calceolarias, Achimenes, &c., &c. To prevent drawing off, or using the water in a turbid state, drain it off as clear as possible. The soot is an essential ingredient as a manure, and as an antidote to insects.

Soft Water.—Where rain or soft water is not procurable for watering plants, it should be known that caustic lime is a useful element in reducing its hardness. The proportions are, 1 of lime water to 5 of common water, which reduces the hardness of water after being boiled; or 1 pound of chalk calcined will produce 9 ounces of caustic lime, which will make 40 gallons of lime water, and be sufficient to mix with 560 gallons of ordinary water.

Bone Dust, mixed with dry sifted loam or soil, and sown thickly broadcast (with after rollings), forms an excellent ingredient for restoring and quickening the verdure of decaying grass plots in gardens and pleasure grounds, &c.

Mixing a small portion of pure bone dust in the soil in which various plants have been grown, has proved very beneficial, and caused them to produce stronger and more healthy growth. The effect is particularly noticed in plants of a slender, delicate habit. By thus enriching the soil it was proved that plants thrive in smaller pots than usual, and did not apparently suffer in the same degree for want of shifting to larger pots. As a fertilizing agent (in due proportions) it appears to be applicable to a greater variety of plants than almost any other yet noticed, by acting as a mechanical agent in adding a greater porosity to the soil by slower decomposition.

Guano Water.—One pound of Peruvian guano to 20 gallons of water, will be sufficiently strong for a single watering to plants or vines each week, and more efficient than repeated waterings with weaker solutions.

Surface Manuring with manure or enriched soil is of greater advantage, and essential for ensuring good crops on poor soils.

Surface Hoing among all crops should, for its benefits, be uniformly attended to in admitting the free action of the atmospheric agencies of light, heat, &c., upon vegetation, and without which, in a proportionate degree, plants will not grow, flowers will not expand, nor fruits ripen.

Cleanliness, from all weeds and rubbish, should be considered as essential among growing vegetable crops in the kitchen garden, as among the more fragile productions of the flower garden. In both cases every green leaf of a weed or intruding plant is abstracting the "life blood" of the soil, both from the present and following crop.

Rest.—Directly after the crops are off, trench and ridge well up. Turn over all spare ground to the action of the air, &c.

Tomatoes for Supper.—Few people know how to prepare uncooked tomatoes in the way adopted in my family, and incomparably better than any mode I have ever tasted. By this mode they are desirable for supper or for breakfast. For a family of half a dozen persons, take six eggs, boil four of the milder, dissolve the yolks with vinegar sufficient, add about three teaspoons of mustard and mash as smooth as possible; then add the two remaining eggs (raw), yolk and white, stir well; then add salad oil to make altogether sauce sufficient to cover the tomatoes well; add plenty of salt, cayenne pepper, and beat thoroughly until it frosts. Skin and cut the tomatoes a full fourth of an inch thick, and pour the sauce over, and you have a dish fit for a President.

Though a little troublesome to prepare, yet if once eaten by people who are blessed with palates to enjoy good things, they will be pronounced to be far superior to any other mode of preparation. We use them constantly in this way for these meals. For dinner they are the best stewed, but they should always be strained before sending to the table.—*German Town Telegraph.*

WHAT AGE MAY A MAN ATTAIN?—Buffon considers that with proper care the maximum need never be less than ninety or a hundred. Haller, who has collected a great number of examples of long life, reckons up more than a thousand instances of individuals having attained the age of 100 to 110; sixty of 110 to 120; twenty-nine of 120 to 130; fifteen of 130 to 140; six of 140 to 150; and one of 169. It has been well said that with our customs, our passions, our miseries, man must die; he kills himself.

The old King's arm had a barrel as long as a rail, requiring some little time for a musket ball to get out of it. A sportsman speaking of its peculiarities said: "I once aimed at a robin, snapped the lock four times, then looked into the muzzle, saw the charge coming out, raised the gun again, took aim, and killed the bird."

How bravely a man can walk the earth, bearing the heaviest burdens, perform the severest duties, and look all men square in the face, if he only bears in his breast a clear conscience, void of offence towards God and man. There is no spring, no spur, no inspiration like this. To feel that we have omitted no task, and left no obligation unfulfilled, this fills the heart with satisfaction, and the soul with strength.

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